

Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) June 25, 1964

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James Chalmers McRuer

I present to you, Sir, James Chalmers McRuer, on the eve of his retirement as Chief Justice of the High Court of Justice for Ontario. His career has been in the best tradition of the legal profession as officer of the Crown, law teacher, practitioner, benchman and judge. Although exhibiting a sincere concern for a proper result in the immediate case, his judgements also reflect a consuming passion for the attainment of more substantial justice as the ultimate purpose of the law, and an equal concern for the development of a more perfect legal system. His special interest in the economically and socially underprivileged in our society is genuine and pervasive and is the natural result of a deep religious faith, made manifest in his active participation in the affairs of his church. His aptitude for the criminal law led to his appointment to no less than three royal commissions and now he is on the threshold of another career as a single Royal Commissioner on the Inquiry into Civil Rights. We salute him as a man honoured and highly respected at home and abroad, as a legal scholar, author, jurist and devout churchman and request you, Mr. Treasurer, to confer upon him our highest academic award.